

Remarks

Claims 1-8 remain pending. Claims 9-16 were previously canceled in response to a restriction requirement. No claims are amended herein.

Requirements for Information

The Office action presents two interrogatories eliciting factual information. Each is presented and discussed below.

All Known Methods Known by the Applicant for Complying with FCC Report No. CC 98-18

For one, the Office action asks for “all known methods known by the applicant for complying with FCC report No. 98-18. ... The information is required to identify products and services embodying the disclosed subject matter of receiving network information from the communication network into the billing system and identify the properties of similar products and services found in the prior art.” (Page 2 of the Office action; emphasis supplied.)

First, the Assignee respectfully notes that the Office action likely intended to request information with respect to FCC Report No. 98-28, which was utilized as a ground of rejection in a previous Office action mailed January 12, 2006. FCC Report No. 98-18, entitled “Ameritech Ordered to Stop Marketing Qwest’s Long Distance Service for 90 Days While the FCC Rules on the Legality of the Marketing Agreement,” appears to have no relevance to the subject matter of the present application. Accordingly, this response presumes a reference to FCC Report No. CC 98-28 (hereinafter “the Guidelines”) was intended.

The Assignee also notes that the subject matter of the Guidelines relates to the production of “*more consumer-friendly*” telephone bills. The Guidelines suggest that telephone bills “should be *clearly organized* and *highlight* any new charges or changes to consumers’ services,” “should *contain full and non-misleading descriptions* of all charges and *clear identification* of the service provider responsible for each charge,” and “should contain *clear and conspicuous disclosure* of any information consumers need to make inquiries about charges.” (The Guidelines; emphasis supplied.) Thus, the Guidelines present a list of rather *subjective* characteristics desired of telephone bills for the benefit of consumers.

Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully asserts that the information required to be submitted is unknown and/or is not readily available to the Assignee or the inventors, as such information requires the expression of an opinion as to whether any particular method provides telephone bills that adhere to the Guidelines. In other words, whether any particular system or method generates such a telephone bill that is clearly organized, contains non-misleading descriptions of charges, or provides clear and conspicuous contact information, requires a subjective assessment or opinion. As such, *from a factual standpoint*, the identity of methods in compliance with the Guidelines is unknowable.

Names of Any Products or Services That Have Incorporated the Claimed Subject Matter

The Office action also requests “the names of any products or services that have incorporated the claimed subject matter.” (Page 2 of the Office action.) In response, the Assignee indicates that the billing system 125, which includes an updated version of the original Invoice Processing System (IPS) referred to in the present application at page 6, line 9, to page 7, line 4, incorporates the claimed subject matter. The updated version of the IPS is referenced specifically as Invoice Processing System (IPS) 128 in Fig. 6 in the present application. The IPS (as it is referred to by employees of the Assignee) and the remainder of the billing system constitute a working system employed within the Assignee’s organization for the purpose of generating bills for its customers. However, the billing system has not been productized for sale to other companies or enterprises. Further, the Assignee is not aware of any other products or services that have incorporated the claimed subject matter.

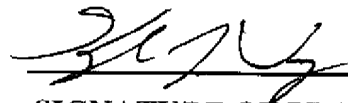
Conclusion

The Assignee submits that claims 1-8 are allowable, and thus respectfully requests their allowance.

The Assignee respectfully requests a one-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(1), and authorizes the Office to charge the requisite fee under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(1). The Assignee believes no additional fees therebeyond are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine additional fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0765.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/25/06

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KJ Way', is written over a horizontal line.

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

Kyle J. Way, Reg. No. 45,549

Setter Roche LLP

Telephone: (720) 562-2283

E-mail: kyle@setterroche.com

Correspondence address:

CUSTOMER NO. 28004

Attn: Harley R. Ball

6391 Sprint Parkway

Mailstop: KSOPHT0101-Z2100

Overland Park, KS 66251-2100